

Town trustees approve event center agreement

■ Issue should go to voters in November election

By JAY GENTILE

Stanley Park moved one step closer to becoming the site of a new ice rink and multi-use event center Tuesday night, after the Estes Park Town Board unanimously approved an intergovernmental agreement between the Town of Estes Park and the Estes Valley Recreation and Park District.

The agreement enters the two bodies into a cost-sharing agreement to split the cost of preliminary designs for the facility, which will be performed by Thorp Associates and Heath Construction.

Thorp/Heath will charge \$47,500 for their services, which will include detailed design and cost estimates by Aug. 1.

"By August, we'll have a very good idea of what the building will look like, its design and what its cost is gonna be," said Town Administrator Rich Widmer. "At that point, we'll work out a detailed deal with the EVRPD."

"As we speak tonight, we don't even know where it will go in Stanley Park," said local architect Roger Thorp. "We are

taking a very open-minded look at the overall facility."

He said within the next week, the Thorp/Heath team will begin interviewing different community groups to get their input on what the building would require in order to host whatever activity each group is advocating.

Besides ice skating and hockey, the facility would host a number of other activities. Ideas thrown out at this point include high school graduations, rodeos, indoor sports practices, indoor tennis and basketball.

"There are a lot of people in Estes that are interested in tennis," said resident Suzanne Luepke at Tuesday's Town Board meeting. Although many groups may want many different uses, the building will only be able to hold so much. Ultimately, the work of Thorp/Heath will determine what is possible within the facility and how much each of those possibilities will cost.

"Our contractors will keep us focused on cost and not allow us to start thinking we can build something for everyone and then find out we can't afford it," Thorp said. He also will have a "guaranteed maximum cost" for the building by August.

"Before the final contract is signed, the contractor can guarantee the price of that building will be no more than that specific number," Thorp explained. "It can't go higher unless there are changes to the design."

Widmer said the design/build approach, when the costs are ascertained at the same time as the design, is a much better approach than the traditional method of doing the design and then bidding out the project for costs. Typically the cost may seem low at first, but then many costs are added on in change orders.

The design/build way alleviates that confusion, Widmer said. "It's a lot better process than getting near the end and finding out it's \$800,000 more than we thought it'd be."

From the mayor

Also at Tuesday's meeting, Mayor John Baudek announced that April has been designated "Volunteer Recognition Month" in Estes Park, in honor of the hundreds of volunteers that contributed more than 17,000 hours to the Town at an estimated value of \$236,728 last year.

This is the third year the Town has designated a volunteer recognition month. It entails an April 23 celebration

event at the Estes Park Conference Center.

Last year, 274 people were invited to the celebration event, which was attended by 155.

"[V]olunteering is an integral part of our town government's operations, bringing unique and special benefits and increasing the effectiveness of existing services," stated the resolution honoring Volunteer Recognition Month that was read Tuesday.

In addition, Baudek made several comments on the "Facing Reality" community forum that was held at the Conference Center on March 19.

"I want to state that I believe that the overwhelming majority of the community, including parents and even many students want and support a zero-tolerance drug policy," Baudek said. "The town and school district have a legal, moral, and ethical obligation to ensure that our community and school are drug free."

"It should be remembered, however, in facing reality," he continued, "that nothing the Town or schools can build or programs that we can enact are as important as parental guidance, parental support, parental communication and parental love."

Life after politics for Disney

By LUCIE R. WILLISIE

Before County Commissioner Jim Disney was elected eight years ago, he used to be an artist.

Now that he has retired from his position with the county, he has gone back to creating his artwork.

"I'm not really retired," Disney said, "I just went back to my old job."

His old job of 30 some years consists largely of landscape painting, but "I do everything," he added, including drawings, the use of various media and depicting all types of subject matter.

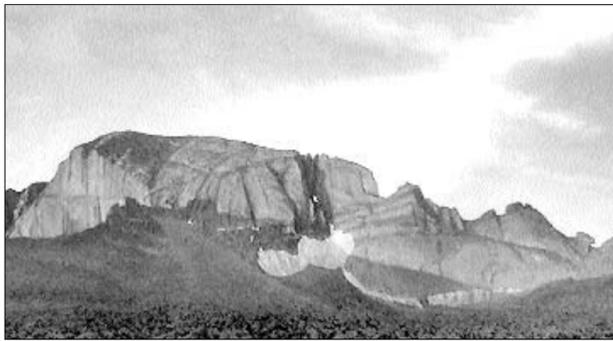
He has completed about a half-dozen pieces of work since the beginning of this year, which he sells in a gallery in Denver. "I enjoy so much being back into art."

Disney has also been keeping himself busy doing a lot of hiking, climbing and snowshoeing.

But, "I miss the people I worked with," he admitted, "... (but) I don't miss people complaining at me."

Disney said he extends a special "Hi to the good folks in Estes Park and thanks for their patience, help and understanding."

His advice for the current board, which includes two new members, is to "make sure you understand the problem from



Courtesy photo by Jim Disney

One of Jim Disney's favorite paintings is titled "The Key Ridge of Longs Peak from the Boulder field at Sunrise." Since he left his Larimer County commissioner's seat in December, Disney has not retired, but rather returned to his previous job as an artist.

all sides before you start to construct the solution." After a complete understanding, Disney then recommended to address all sides of the problem.

"My job," Disney said, "was to be a problem-solver — not to push my ideas ... There's just so much money." And, he added, choices have to be based on priorities. With costs going up all the time and taxpayers not wanting to pay more taxes than they have to, some tough decisions have to be made.

Disney, however, has not left public service completely behind him. He has been asked by Wil Smith, Urban Renewal

Authority director in Estes Park, to serve as a citizen representative on the transportation commission. Disney accepted.

And as to his future in art — or in politics — Disney said, "He who lives by the crystal ball is condemned to eat glass ... In other words, if you try to predict the future, you'll probably eat your words."

Disney's artwork should be available for viewing on the Rocky Mountain Nature Association Web site (www.RMNP.org) by this summer, with a part of the proceeds going to the association.

Annoying phrases: When good slogans go bad

(NAPSA) — Slogans that once seemed like clever turns of phrase, if overused, can quickly become quite irritating, leading to disparaging looks and remarks if the words are ever uttered again.

As in years past, 2000 was full of phrases that seemed the epitome of trendy pop culture in January but by the fall had become as commonplace as another episode of "Who Wants to be a Millionaire."

As part of the launch of the new Snickers Cruncher™ candy bar, the M&M/Mars company arranged for a national poll by Yankelevich Partners to deter-

mine the "Phrases of 2000 That Make Americans Want to Crunch Something." The final votes are now in, and no recounts are scheduled.

America has cast its votes (no punchcards allowed this time) and the "winners" of this dubious distinction are (listed in no particular order, as the results were too close to call):

- Y2K Bug.
- The Millennium.
- I would like a recount/revote.
- Who is the President? Who won the election?
- Whazzup?
- Whatever.
- Who let the dogs out?

- Dot-com.
- The world is coming to an end.

• Is that your final answer? By now, most consumers want to crunch something whenever they hear any of these phrases, and that's where the Snickers Cruncher comes in. The new confection is a puffed rice version of the popular candy bar that's packed with peanuts, chocolate and caramel.

"The purpose of this national poll was to have some fun and build on the 'crunch factor' of our new Snickers Cruncher," said Scott Hudler, Brand Communications Manager for M&M/Mars.

Sex offender gets 10 years in prison

By JAY GENTILE

Charles William Anfield, 55, of Estes Park, has been sentenced to 10 years in prison followed by 10 years of supervised probation for repeatedly sexually assaulting an Estes Park girl who was 10 and 11 years old at the time of the assaults.

Anfield pled guilty to one count of sexual assault on a child, a class IV felony, and to one count of attempt to commit sexual assault on a child, a class V felony, before Judge James Hiatt in Larimer County District Court on March 13.

The charges were amended from class III and class IV felonies, respectively, as part of the plea agreement. An additional class III felony charge, sexual assault of a child pattern of abuse, was dropped.

In exchange for his guilty plea, Anfield avoided a four-day trial that was set to commence March 20.

An earlier plea agreement submitted by attorneys was rejected by Hiatt at an Oct. 31 hearing because the penalties were not stiff enough. If accepted by Hiatt, that plea agreement would have secured Anfield a maximum of eight years in prison.

"The judges concern was there wasn't gonna be any long-term supervision," said Larimer County Deputy District Attorney Jolene Blair, who prosecuted the case. "Not only does he get a lengthier sentence, he gets consecutive long-term supervision."

Blair said Anfield will be eligible for parole after serving the first half of his sentence, but said sex offenders are typically not granted parole on their first date of eligibility. She said he can't get out of any of the supervision time.

"The rewarding thing is seeing him go off to prison," Blair said. "There won't be any other little girls having to put up with what she did."

Blair said the repeated assaults "involved oral sex" over a

period of time in 1997 and 1998, while the victim was in third and fourth grade.

A complaint was made to the Estes Park Police Department on May 18, 2000. Following an investigation of the complaint, a felony arrest warrant was issued and Anfield was arrested at his home on May 26.

Bond was set at \$35,000. Hiatt rejected a June 28 request by public defender Matthew Zehe to reduce bond to \$10,000. No one ever came up with the \$35,000.

Anfield has been held in the Larimer County Detention Center since his arrest date, turning 55 in prison last Oct. 28. He will serve the rest of his sentence in the Colorado Department of Corrections facility in Canon City.

"The DA's office did their job and we are satisfied with the outcome of the plea agreement," said Corporal Eric Rose of the Estes Park Police Department. He said the sentence "could have been to life."

The maximum penalty for a class IV felony is 16 years in prison and a \$500,000 fine. Blair said judges almost never order such large fines, but Anfield will pay out \$6,500 in fees — including a \$4,200 probation supervisor fee, a \$2,000 sex offender surcharge and \$280 in court costs.

In addition, he will register as a sex offender with all local law enforcement agencies "wherever he lives, even if he moves," said Larimer County District Court Clerk LuAnn Wasinger.

Blair said she was glad to see an end to the long court proceedings which began last June. Rose said it is the longest case he has worked. Blair said it dragged on so long because of "the defendant's difficulty in trying to decide what to do."

Zehe did not return phone calls.

Blair said she is "definitely" pleased with the sentence, "and I think the (victim's) family was pleased too. I think it's a pretty stiff sentence and I think in this case it was deserved."